

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-62 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 18, 37, 40, 43, 46 and 49 amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action; Claims 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph; Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohiso et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,864,575); and Claims 9-62 withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the personal interview between the Examiner and Applicants' representatives on May 5, 2004. During the interview, the Examiner agreed that amending Claim 1 to recite the relationship shown in Applicants' Figure 19 would distinguish over the cited reference. The Examiner also agreed that Ohiso does not disclose or suggest the linear relationship recited in Claim 6 and described on page 85 of Applicants' originally filed specification. The Examiner also acknowledged that Claims 1-8 were generic claims. Thus, if Claims 1-8 were found to be allowable, Claims 10-62 would also be allowable.

Claim 1 is amended to recite the relationship shown in Applicants' Figure 19. Claims 1, 18, 37, 40, 43, 46, and 49 are similarly amended. No new matter is added. In view of the agreement reached during the interview, Applicants submit Claims 1, 18, 37, 40, 43, 46, and 49, and all claims depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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